

REFERENCE 2

44. ALTERNATIVE AUTHORIZATION – CONTENT SPECIALIST (EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2006)

The purpose of this alternative authorization is to offer an expedited route to certification for individuals who are highly and uniquely qualified in a subject area to teach in a district with an identified need for teachers in that area. Alternative authorization in this area is valid for three (3) years and is not renewable. (3-20-04)

01. Initial Qualifications.

- a. Prior to application, a candidate must hold a Bachelor's degree. (3-20-04)
- b. The candidate shall meet enrollment qualifications of the alternative route preparation program. (3-20-04)

02. Alternative Route Preparation Program – College/University Preparation

- a. A consortium composed of a designee from the college/university to be attended, and a representative from the school district, and the candidate shall determine preparation needed to meet the Idaho Standards for Initial Certification of Professional School Personnel. This preparation must include mentoring and a minimum of one (1) classroom observation per month until certified. (3-20-04)
- b. Prior to entering the classroom, the candidate completes eight (8) to sixteen (16) weeks of accelerated study in education pedagogy. (3-20-04)
- c. Candidate will work toward completion of the alternative route preparation program through a participating college/university and the employing school district. A teacher must attend, participate in, and successfully complete an individualized alternative route preparation program as one (1) of the conditions to receive a recommendation for full certification. (3-20-04)
- d. The participating college/university shall provide procedures to assess and credit equivalent knowledge, dispositions, and relevant life/work experiences. (3-20-04)
- e. Prior to entering the classroom, the candidate shall meet or exceed the state qualifying score on appropriate state-approved content, pedagogy, or performance assessment. (3-20-04)

The purpose of this program is to provide an alternative for individuals to become certificated preK-12 teachers in Idaho without following a standard preparation program. This route provides an alternative for individuals who have strong content backgrounds but little or no experience with educational pedagogy. Qualified applicants will begin contracted employment earlier and will be admitted to the program using criteria that are

different from existing programs but more appropriate for the circumstances. The certification is valid for three (3) years and is non-renewable. To be eligible for the program, the following steps must be taken:

PROCEDURES

1. The candidate will make application for entry into the program through the teacher preparation program of the college/university to be attended.
2. Upon approval of entry into an individualized program and **prior** to entering the classroom, the candidate must complete:
 - a. an individualized eight (8) to sixteen (16) week program of educational pedagogy study that will be developed for the candidate; and,
 - b. show verification of having met or exceeded the state qualifying score on any applicable State Board-approved content, pedagogy, or performance assessments (i.e. PRAXIS II tests).
3. The participating college/university will develop a written plan using prior college course work, real life/work experiences, and analysis of an individual's knowledge and dispositions to determine what is necessary for the candidate to complete the Alternative Authorization – Content Specialist program.
4. Once the pre-service pedagogy program has been completed and the written plan for the rest of the program has been developed, the candidate may apply to the Idaho State Department of Education's Bureau of Certification/Professional Standards and Adult Services for an interim Idaho teaching certificate. This certificate is:
 - a. good for three (3) years; and,
 - b. is non-renewable.

It allows the individual to seek and accept a teaching position appropriate to the certificate(s)/endorsement(s) listed on the certificate. The candidate may complete the rest of his/her program requirements while working for the employing school district.

5. The candidate will need to initiate the Criminal History Check (CHC) prior to entering the classroom.
6. There will be neither financial nor accreditation penalties to a district that hires the candidate while he/she is completing the program.
7. The individual will also meet the "highly qualified teacher" standard of the No Child Left Behind legislation while working on his/her program.
8. The participating college/university will work with the employing school/school district to monitor the candidate's progress until the program has been completed. This process will include a plan that provides a minimum of one (1) classroom observation per month until the plan is completed. The observations can be done by either college/university personnel, the principal of the building (or his/her designee), and/or by the mentor teacher.
9. The employing school/school district must furnish a mentor teacher to work with the candidate while he/she is in the program. The mentor teacher will also work with the participating college/university to provide whatever documentation the college/university might require to monitor the candidate's progress.

10. When the candidate has completed all requirements as outlined in his/her plan, the college/university will issue an Institutional Recommendation for program completion and for the major endorsement teaching area(s). Minor endorsement areas will be evaluated by personnel in the Bureau of Certification, Professional Standards, and Adult Services in the Idaho State Department of Education.
11. The candidate may then apply for his/her Idaho educator certificate by sending:
 - a. a completed application (form B1);
 - b. a check for \$75;
 - c. a certified copy of the Institutional Recommendation;
 - d. official transcripts (and/or a letter from the college/university if other methods for granting equivalent experience, dispositions, and knowledge have been used);
 - e. verification of successful passage of one of the three State Board-approved versions of the Idaho technology test;
 - f. verification of successful completion of the Idaho Comprehensive Literacy Assessment (if applicable);
 - g. verification of having met or exceeded the State Board of Education's approved qualifying scores on any applicable PRAXIS II tests.

The items listed in #10 (above) must be sent to: **Idaho State Department of Education; Bureau of Certification, Professional Standards, and Adult Services; PO Box 83720; Boise, ID 83720-0027**